

Multi-genre Essay

What does it take to become an Athenian or Visigoth in the world today? Using what you have read this year you will create a multi-genre essay. A Multi-genre Project presents multiple, even conflicting, perspectives on a topic or event, in order to provide a rich context and present an aesthetically appealing product for an audience. Your multi-genre project should reflect the following:

A focus: You should not only include documents that relate to a general topic or event, but you should ensure that the documents forward a point of significance, a rhetorical purpose.

A coherent organization: Documents should be created and organized in order to lead readers through the project, to help them understand your focus and purpose. A series of seemingly unconnected pieces, though they may share a similar topic, will not result in a strong multi-genre project. Instead, readers should experience a sense of cohesion, a sense of connection and transition between each generic document in the project. You can create coherence through transitional pieces between genres, your table of contents, etc.

The Multi-genre Project includes at least 8 documents (including an Introduction, Table of Contents, 5 documents of different genres, and a works cited page) that offer a sustained argument about what it takes to be an Athenian or Visigoth. By creating documents in different genres (e.g., the academic research essay, editorials, feature stories, brochures, short fiction, charts, scripts, etc.), you learn to write for multiple audiences, multiple purposes, and multiple forums.

Your entire MGP should be presented in a theme that best fits your purposes. Past students have “packaged” their MGPs as a CD, a scrapbook, a photo album, a patient file, an employee handbook, a manual, a newspaper, a magazine—the options are endless! Just be sure to offer us a table of contents (TOC) that provides an overview of and title for each document.

Your Introduction serves as a guide to readers, helping us understand the issue you’re addressing, offering us insight about why you chose the genres you chose, etc. The intro is your chance to help us understand why this topic is important, how we should “read” your documents, etc. The intro may be written as a letter to readers, a magazine article, an editorial, etc

The bulk of your MGP will be the five documents, each representing a different genre, that helps persuade your audience(s) to what it takes to be an Athenian or Visigoth. Aim for a good balance of genres, and be sure that all your documents contain evidence from a different piece that we have read this year. **You must include evidence that directly links back to one of the pieces you read. Each document must cite a different reading.** By writing a traditional researched essay, a brochure that utilizes your research sources, a chart or other visual, a story drawing from the information you've gathered, a quiz based on researched sources, etc.—by approaching your research findings in a creative way, your MGP helps an audience understand many different perspectives about what it takes to be an Athenian or Visigoth. Some of the documents you'll include may be more time-intensive than others. But the 5 documents that make up the body of your MGP should show your knowledge, creativity, and ability to persuade your audience(s) toward your central claim.

The MGP should conclude with a Works Cited page. As you cite sources for each document, your citation approach should be appropriate for each genre. It's a rare ghost story, for example, that includes parenthetical citation practices! But there are creative ways to ensure that you a) give credit to the source from which you draw information (e.g., discussing that info in your introduction, using endnotes/acknowledgment pages, etc.), and b) establish your credibility as a writer who has conducted significant research to support your opinion.

A Brief List of Genres:

Academic	Creative
Journal Entries	Personal Letter
Inner Monologue Representing Internal Conflicts	Greeting Card
Personal Essay or Philosophical Questions	Schedule/Things to Do List
Poetry	Classified or Personal Ads
Autobiographical Essay	Top Ten List/Glossary or Dictionary
Business Letter or Correspondence/Persuasive or Advocacy Letter	Song Lyrics
Biographical Summary	Contest Entry Application
Critique of a Published Source	Dialogue of a Conversation among Two or More People
Speech or Debate	Adventure Magazine Story
Historical Times Context Essay	Ghost Story
Textbook Article	Talk Show Interview or Panel
Science Article or Report/Business Article or Report	Recipe and Description of Traditional Holiday Events
Lesson Plan	Comedy Routine or Parody
Encyclopedia Article	Liner Notes

Short Scene from a Play with Notes for Stage Directions	Picture book Magazine or TV Advertisement or Infomercial
Short Scene from a Movie with Notes for Camera Shots	Restaurant Description and Menu
Short Story	Travel Brochure Description
Myth, Tall Tale, or Fairy Tale	Receipts, Applications, Deeds, Budgets or Other Documents
Classroom Discussion	Wedding, Graduation or Special Event Invitation
Character Analysis or Case Study	Birth Certificate
Chart or Diagram with Explanation and Analysis	Local News Report
Brochure or Newsletter	Pop-Up book
Time Line or Chain of Events	Review and Poster for a Movie, Book, or TV Program
Map with Explanation and Analysis	Board Game or Trivial Pursuit with Answers and Rules
How-To or Directions Booklet	Comic Strip or Graphic Novel excerpt
Power Point Presentation	Informational Video

Letter to the Editor	Web Site
	Future News Story
	Newspaper or Magazine Feature/Human Interest Story Obituary, Eulogy or Tribute
	News Program Story or Announcement
	Tabloid Article